



Adventure Coast Group // Florida Chapter

Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group June 2026 News, Events & Action Alerts

Check out all that's going on!

**Sierra Club Pasco Conservation
Committee Monthly Zoom July 1st**

**Join us! Adventure Coast Executive
Committee Zoom Wednesday, July 8th**

**Adventure Coast Meetup July 15th
with Beth Brady of Save the Manatees
Inside the World of Manatees**

**Adventure Coast MeetUp August 19th
With Don Wright on Adapting to
Hot Seas & Storm Threats**

**Citrus County Planning Commission
Denies Data Center
At Holder Industrial Park
Deltona Withdraws Application**

**Candidate Forum Tuesday, July 7th
At Citrus County Auditorium, Inverness**

**Hernando County Commission Approves
Moratorium on Data Centers**

**Flood Risk to Resilience
Listening Sessions Held
In Citrus and Hernando**

**Sierra Club Magazine:
Zen and the Art of Canoeing with the Kids**

SIERRA CLUB FLORIDA PASCO CONSERVATION COMMITTEE



1st Wed. @ 8pm on Zoom



Wednesday, July 1st Zoom: Join our ZOOM meeting the first Wednesday of each month at 6:30 PM at: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7674695843> with the Zoom ID: 767 469 5843.

Take Action Now!

- Speak out about the Two Rivers 9,000-acre development just north of Hillsborough State Park at the Dade City Planning Council Meeting on July 9th at 1:30 pm.
- Share your thoughts at the July 14th BOCC meeting in Dade City about the 1 yr Data Center Moratorium in Pasco County. Do you want the "exceptions" and "exemptions" in your backyard?
- Summer reading for our book club is 'Environmental Ethics: A Very Short Introduction' by Robin Attfield.
- Help GIS Gopher Tortoise burrows with our field team.
- Get on board with saving the last 123 acres on Hudson Ave. Do you want a fleet of maintenance trucks there?

For more information, contact Sasha (727) 326-2646.

The Sierra Club Pasco Conservation Committee is dedicated to preserving, protecting, exploring and enjoying nature in areas of Pasco County. The Pasco Conservation Team is working towards spinning off into its own Nature Coast Sierra Club Group. If you would like to join us in leading the way to educate and protect Pasco's natural open spaces, please email Sasha sashabuddha@gmail.com or call (727) 326-2646.

**Join us! Adventure Coast Executive
Committee Zoom Wednesday, July 8th**



(L to R) Joe Murphy retired ExCom member, Maxine Connor & Robin Orlandi, Co-chairs-Citrus Conservation Committee, DeeVon Quirolo, Chair, Gene Kelly, retired ExCom member & Pres. Florida Native Plant Society, and Cindy Liberton, Hernando Native Plant Society

Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group is seeking members interested in getting involved. Please consider joining our team to actively protect our environment, educate our community and advocate to defend it. To get started, attend our monthly Executive Committee ZOOM meeting held the second Wednesday of each month. This is where we discuss and determine how to achieve our annual goals. We are all volunteers and you can choose how much or how little time to engage.

The next monthly Executive Committee meeting is July 8th via Zoom 5pm—6:30pm. It is open to the public, and you are welcome to join us online at: <https://zoom.us/j/98626505635?pwd=4Aayd4E7vcTmXqtUKomYP33Ab5lJQ.1>

Meeting ID: 986 2650 5635 Passcode: 392529

Next year, we will have vacancies on the Executive Committee, so we are planning ahead and want to get others familiar with group activities. For more info, please reach out to DeeVon Quirolo at sierraclubadventurecoastcc@gmail.com or call 352-277-3330 (landline).

July 15th 2026

SIERRA CLUB ADVENTURE COAST MEET UP with Dr. Beth Brady on the Inside World of Florida Manatees

*At the Historic Brooksville
Woman's Club, 131 S. Main
Street in Brooksville, FL.*



Beth was born and raised in Pennsylvania and originally went to school to become a registered nurse. After a few years of nursing, she realized her passion was marine mammals. She moved to Florida and did a nine-month photo ID internship with Florida Fish and Wildlife. She then went to Nova Southeastern University for her Master's and Florida Atlantic University for her PhD, focusing her research on the vocalizations of Florida manatees. She has multiple peer-reviewed publications on the vocalizations of all manatee species. Currently, she uses drones for a variety of applications, including to assess the body condition of manatees. Beth's journey reflects her dedication to understanding and contributing to the well-being of manatees. This talk will take you inside the world of Florida manatees and the challenges they face from human impacts.

Social at 6:30 PM and meeting at 7 PM. Join the meeting in person or via Zoom. To participate remotely via Zoom, please register in advance at: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/7W-dxK4FTKqyrmvTt6VS7Q>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

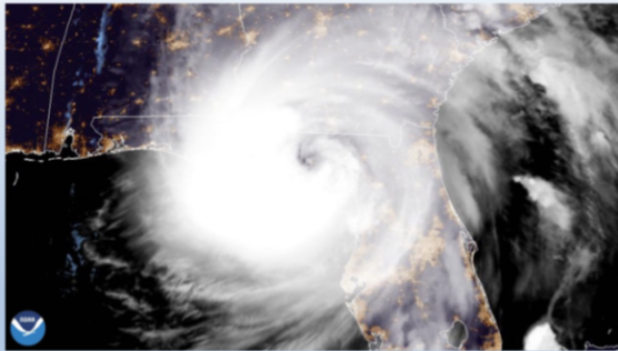
Join the meeting in person or via Zoom. To participate remotely via Zoom, please register in advance at: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/7W-dxK4FTKqyrmvTt6VS7Q>.

August 19th 2026

SIERRA CLUB ADVENTURE COAST MEET UP

***with Don Wright on Adapting to
Hot Seas & 2026 Storm Threats***

*At the Historic Brooksville Woman's Club,
131 S. Main Street in Brooksville, FL.*



NOAA- NESDIS satellite image of category 4 Hurricane Helene at landfall in Florida's "Big Bend" region September 26, 2024



Dr. Wright is a Citrus County resident with a long record of expertise beginning with a PH.D. from the Coastal Studies Institute of Louisiana State University to Professor and Dean of the School of Marine Sciences, Virginia Institute of Marine Science at College of William and Mary, Professor at University of Sydney and Louisiana State University to Director of Coastal and Environmental Research for the Southeastern University Research Association of Washington, D.C. in addition to numerous publications on the impacts of climate change on coasts. Dr. Wright will speak on the need to anticipate and adapt to hot seas and storm threats this year along the Nature Coast of Florida.

Social at 6:30 PM and meeting at 7 PM. Join the meeting in person or via Zoom. To participate remotely via Zoom, please register in advance at: <https://zoom.us/meeting/register/dTTFmsBpS-iYu5uwj4JjyQ>

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**Citrus County Planning Commission
Denies Data Center
At Holder Industrial Park
Deltona Withdraws Application**

**Candidate Forum Tuesday, July 7th
At Citrus County Auditorium, Inverness**



About 200 residents attended a hearing before the Citrus Planning and Development Commission on June 18th to speak out against the proposed expansion of the planned Holder Industrial Park by 823 acres to accommodate a hyper-scaled data center. The hearing also considered the request to approve the use of the additional land for a hyperscale data center. The Planning Commission denied the application.

Citrus County recently approved a moratorium of up to one year on such centers to provide time for the county to develop comprehensive land use regulations for this newly emerging use of industrial lands.

Before the hearing was held, Deltona requested a continuance until November for the County Commission hearing on the issue scheduled for July 14th. Commissioner Diana Finegan preferred to hold the hearing as scheduled. On Monday, June 22, Citrus Commissioners denied Deltona's request to continue the hearing. The next day, June 23, Deltona withdrew its application for the data center. That is good news for Citrus.

Adventure Coast Citrus Conservation Committee co-chairs Robin Orlandi and Maxine Connor spoke out at both hearings to recommend caution based on the multiple potential impacts to the community and valuable water resources, wildlife, and the environment. The land use change and data center applications have been withdrawn, but this isn't over. Pay attention and follow competent reporting about data centers. The Citrus moratorium is for one year, OR when an ordinance to amend the comprehensive land use plan is amended to regulate data centers. Watch for notice of public hearing and hopefully, workshops.

Public input and VOTING wisely can change outcomes. Meet the candidates at the Primary Election Candidate Forum on Tuesday, July 7th at the Citrus County Auditorium in Inverness. Doors open at 5pm.

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Hernando County Commission Approves Moratorium on Data Centers



Jennifer Sullivan speaks out against data centers

On Tuesday, June 23rd, Hernando County Commissioners voted unanimously to adopt an ordinance imposing a temporary one-year moratorium on data centers so that an ordinance can be drafted and approved addressing them. Several commissioners indicated that they were in favor of it at the beginning of the meeting and then heard from many residents, all of whom opposed the idea of hyperscale data centers in Hernando. One speaker provided a template for county land use provisions to address data centers.

Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group Chair DeeVon Quirolo echoed the comments of many that *Hernando County is not a good fit for such intensive industrial development. Hyperscale data centers would endanger the conservation integrity of Hernando's springs, forests and wildlife and are incompatible with our residential, business, rural and agricultural character. The issue of water consumption is one of our top concerns. Our springs are already officially impaired, and we are in a major drought. There is no "extra" water to share with a data center. The County Water Budget already predicts water shortages in coming years. This is a legitimate reason to rethink any hyperscale data centers here in the Nature Coast.*

IF the commission decides to allow them, Sierra Club has taken the position that land use regulations can be adopted to accommodate small scale data centers that address the issues of climate, environment, public health and equity outcomes. We can protect the health and avoid economic impacts on communities by utilizing clean energy and on-site battery storage instead of dirty diesel backup generators and costly fossil fuel-fired power plants.

Flood Risk to Resilience **Listening Sessions held In Citrus and Hernando**



Crystal River Listening Session: Team members (L to R) Jessica Sirois, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council; Denise Dookeran, Florida Sierra Club; Lucas Duncan, Adventure Coast Group college intern; Robin Orlandi, Adventure Coast Group; Maxine Connor, Adventure Coast Group; Delaney Coleman, Adventure Coast Group college intern.



Weeki Wachee Listening Session: Team members (L to R) Joe Murphy, Adventure Coast Group; guest (kneeling); Lucas Duncan, Adventure Coast Group college intern; Tom St. Clair, Hernando Audubon; Mary Ann Johnson, host; Taylor Masnjak, Adventure Coast; Emily Van Sickle, Adventure Coast Group student leader; Jessica Sirois, Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council.



Joe Murphy, Adventure Coast Group; Ridge Manor Listening Session



The Tampa Bay region is a flood-vulnerable area, facing extreme risk from storm surge, sea-level rise, and heavy rainfall due to its low-lying geography, extensive coastline, shallow continental shelf, and dense development. Both coastal and inland flooding threatens the safety, property, and livelihoods of Tampa Bay's communities.

The Tampa Bay Regional Planning Council is developing the Tampa Bay Coastal Master Plan (TBCMP)—a comprehensive, four-year initiative in Citrus, Hernando, Pasco, Pinellas, Hillsborough, Manatee, and Sarasota counties that spans more than 2,200 square miles of coastal and inland communities, estuaries, rivers, wetlands, and barrier islands.

The Coastal Master Plan aims to strengthen regional flood resilience by addressing the impacts of sea-level rise, storm surge, extreme rainfall, and high-tide flooding. The 2026 focus includes hosting public listening sessions to identify flood-vulnerable communities, prioritize restoration and flood-reduction projects, and guide long-term adaptation strategies with equity, innovation, and collaboration.

As partner/collaborators in this effort, Sierra Club Adventure Coast Group and Hernando Audubon hosted three Listening Sessions. Thank you to the partners and facilitators who made each one a success:

- George Washington Carver Community Center, Crystal River. The facilitators were Sierra Club's Robin Orlandi and Maxine Connor, in cooperation with Denise Dookeran—Florida Sierra, Jessica Sirois—TBCMP, and center representatives.
- Weeki Wachee Area Club, Hernando Beach. The facilitator was Sierra Club's Taylor Masnjak and Tom St Clair, in cooperation with the Weeki Wachee Area Club and Jessica Sirois.

- Ridge Manor Community Center. The facilitator was Lynn Gruber-White, President of the Ridge Manor Property Owners Association, in cooperation with Joe Murphy of Sierra Club, Hernando Audubon, and Jessica Sirios—TBCMP.
- Special thanks to Delaney Coleman and Lucas Duncan, Sierra Club college interns, and Emily Van Sickle, Sierra Club Student Leader, part of our team, for each workshop.

These efforts ensure that local governments, community organizations, residents, and technical experts all contribute to shaping the plan. This year, the Coastal Master Plan will develop a Regional Flood Risk Assessment that will provide a scientific and analytical foundation for all future project recommendations. By 2027, the focus will be to design, screen, and evaluate projects in priority areas based on community feedback. In 2028, the plan will be released.

Sierra Club Magazine

Zen and the Art of Canoeing With the Kids

Reflections on a summer paddle adventure

Text and photographs by Conor Mihell; June 17, 2026



My parents weren't big on camping. Because of that, I discovered outdoor activities like mountain biking and canoeing on my own. I taught myself to paddle. At first, I was a little afraid to go out on the water alone, but over time I got more confident. Eventually, my love of nature became everything to me, and I decided to study conservation in college. Then I built a career guiding wilderness trips, teaching, and writing about the outdoors.

Kate, on the other hand, was raised on outdoor adventures and all the activities that went with them. Her family would paddle together in a honey-colored wooden canoe that her parents made themselves. These outings brought Kate and Colleen closer together as sisters. They learned skills like how to read a map and make a fire, and they became expert paddlers. These experiences inspired them to take on leadership roles when they were teenagers. The sisters guided canoe trips at summer camps. When they were a bit older, they worked for an organization that helped city kids get outdoors.

Now Lyndell and Hazel were growing up in nature too—but with their own unique flare. Once they had helped pack up their sleeping bags and poured water on the campfire, making sure the fire was fully out, it was their turn to be in charge.

Read the full article at: <https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/2026-2-summer/field-trip/zen-and-art-canoeing-kids#:~:text=Zen%20and%20the,June%2017%2C%202026>



The Sierra Club is America's largest and most influential grassroots environmental organization, with more than 3.5 million members and supporters. In addition to protecting every person's right to get outdoors and access the healing power of nature, the Sierra Club works to promote clean energy, safeguard the health of our communities, protect wildlife, and preserve our remaining wild places through grassroots activism, public education, lobbying, and legal action. For more information, visit [sierraclub.org](https://www.sierraclub.org).

For more information about Sierra Club Adventure

Coast Group, visit our website:

www.sierraclub.org/florida/adventure-coast, send an email to sierraclubadventurecoastcc@gmail.com, or call 352 277-3330.

